SECRET

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: May 25, 1954

SUBJECT:

PARTICIPANTS: The Secretary
Sir Roger Makins
Mr. Merchant

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During the course of a call by the British Ambassador on another subject, the Secretary brought him briefly up to date on developments concerning Guatemala. He described the risks in the situation and the important quantity of arms which had already been landed. He said that we were maintaining surveillance over shipping which might put into Guatemalan ports and would be prepared to go further than surveillance in the case of any suspicious vessel. He invited the cooperation of the British in this matter and described the lengths to which the Communists had gone to mask their operation to date. The Secretary added that he was sure the British would forgive us if we learned some lessons from British blockade practice in the first World War. Sir Roger said that he would report this immediately to London which he believed was fully alive to the situation. In this connection the Secretary alluded to the serious consequences which might arise from a spread of the infection to British Honduras. Sir Roger said that he was inclined to believe that we would find London entirely cooperative in practice though their reaction on grounds of general principle might not be all that we would wish.

APPROVE
DISAPPROVE

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